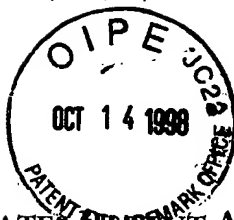


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PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NUMBER P3875 CON

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

CORNELIUS BORST *ET AL.*

Invention:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TEMPORARILY
IMMOBILIZING A LOCAL AREA OF TISSUE

Application No. 08/915,678

Filed August 21, 1997

Examiner: Robert L. Nasser, Jr.

RECEIVED

OCT 26 1998

Group 3700

Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.115

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Action of May 11, 1998, please enter the following amendments and reconsider the application in light of the remarks that follow the amendments.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 20-32 as shown below.

- DI
- 1 20. (Amended) A method of [performing] immobilizing tissue during open or closed chest cardiac surgery
2 comprising:
3 accessing a surface of the heart;
4 positioning a first member having at least one primary [a first] suction port on the surface
5 of the heart;
6 coupling a first suction source to [the] any primary suction port of the first member;
7 creating a suction with the first suction source, the created suction then communicated to
8 [the first] any primary suction port;
9 grasping the surface of the heart with the suction in [the first] any primary suction port;
10 and
11 fixing the first member to a stationary object.

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